

INTERACTIVE WASTE RECEPTACLE

Abstract of the Disclosure

A refuse collection system includes a plurality of waste receptacles arrayed adjacent to, or in the midst of, an eating area. Some of the waste receptacles may include compactor elements, and others may not. The receptacles have electronic control units and sensors for detecting the presence of patrons adjacent to the refuse receiving inlet door, or chute, and to sense the quantity of refuse accumulated in the receptacle. The patron sensor employs a wide angled feature for better detection of patrons who approach the unit from an oblique angle. The units have signal conveying devices, such as loudspeakers, by which aural messages can be communicated to patrons or servicing personnel. The electronic control units are able to communicate to a remote monitoring location, whether a fixed station or a portable station carried by a staff member.